

the organization to expand health care services across county lines and improve access to health care for citizens throughout northeast Georgia who previously had to drive to Gainesville for most of their primary health care services.

Today, Northeast Georgia Health System is a major provider of health care services for 20 counties in northeast Georgia. It has over 3,500 employees and one of the largest and most active volunteer programs in the State. The system now includes a free-standing mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse treatment facility, two long-term care facilities, a satellite cancer center in Stephens County, a hospice service and two hospital campuses with a total of 418 acute inpatient beds. Other major services that have been added under John's leadership include the Ronnie Green Heart Center and Stribling Heart Clinic for advanced heart care, the only comprehensive cancer care service in the region; a strong network over 14 primary care centers located in eight counties; a neonatal intensive care service; and a comprehensive physical rehabilitation institute.

Fortunately for northeast Georgia, John has always understood that to truly impact the health of the community, services cannot be contained within the walls of the hospital. His vision for a healthier community coupled with a heart for people who depend on NGMC for health care services paved the way for a strong relationship with the Hall County Health Department. In the late 1970s, working with the health department, NGMC implemented a midwifery program to extend prenatal care to indigent patients who did not have resources to access private providers of services.

John's vision for a healthier community has resulted in numerous other innovative outreach initiatives. In the early 1990s, NGMC lead a collaborative community effort with local schools, the health department, the Junior League, and other service organizations to generate funds for a mobile health unit to provide basic health care screenings and services to people who had limited resources to access other traditional health care services. NGMC has continued to fund and help staff this service since its inception.

Through the Medical Center Foundation, health initiatives operated by other community service organizations have been supported. More than \$300,000 was raised to help fund construction of a free medical and dental clinic for persons who have no resources for care. Since completion of the clinic, the medical center has continued to help fund clinical supplies through the indigent care trust fund for volunteer physicians, dentists, and nurses who staff the clinic. Funds have also been raised for numerous other health-related community benefits, such as the Meals on Wheels program for provision of meals to homebound

seniors, the SafeKids Playground at Fair Street Elementary School in Gainesville, automatic external defibrillators for emergency response vehicles in Hall County, and the Challenged Child Organization.

Northeast Georgia Health System is the lead agency for SafeKids since 1997 and currently works with 21 community agencies to develop and fund initiatives to decrease the rate of accidental injuries to children. The SafeKids Coalition has received numerous State and national awards and was recently recognized as National Coalition of the Year.

John's vision for high-quality health care services and his heart for the people who depend on Northeast Georgia Health System have unquestionably made an impact on the community and the health and quality of life in Hall and surrounding counties. I commend Mr. John A. Ferguson as a man who has served our community well and commend him to his retirement.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-428) on the resolution (H. Res. 536) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE PRESIDENT'S BALLOONING CREDIBILITY DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in addressing the Republican Governors Association fund-raiser on Monday evening, the President, in a much-touted speech, decided to question the Democratic front runner's credibility. This speech, it was touted, was to launch the President's reelection campaign; but it began with the theme of questioning the front runner of the Democratic Party's credibility.

Let me just start off by saying it is a good thing that the White House is not made of glass. I think it is very interesting that the President decided that the credibility of our front runner was in question, when after only 3 years of governing, this is a President who has America stuck in a jobless economy and an endless occupation.

Now, the President could have spoken about his foreign policy record, but all that offers is a growing and expensive prospect of endless occupation. He could have spoken of his leadership on

the economy, but all he could point to is an economy that is not producing jobs. So the President decided that it was his right in a speech the other night to the Governors to lead off with a discussion of credibility.

I think the credibility gap of the administration at this point is a good thing, given that his budget will widen the deficit gap. The deficit he has created will not be as lonely now that he has a credibility deficit that continues to grow.

The President wants to question the consistency of our potential nominee's record, yet within 18 months he flip-flopped on steel tariffs. This is a President who wants to question credibility, yet in a book recently published by Paul O'Neill, his former Treasury Secretary, he questioned the legitimacy of a second tax cut he was going to propose because, he said, "Haven't we done enough for the top end?" Yet he went out there and accused Democrats of class warfare for asking the very same question he had asked, Had the first tax cut not done enough to take care of the top 1 percent?

After 3 years, his economic record is \$3 trillion added to the Nation's debt and 3 million Americans have lost their jobs, and yet he wants to run this election on credibility.

He went to Ohio to talk about the importance of manufacturing jobs to the economy, given that 2 million manufacturing jobs have been lost in America since 2000. His budget, 3 years in a row, has cut the manufacturing extension program, which helps small manufacturing businesses compete in the world market. And he wants to talk about credibility?

His economic report of last week praised outsourcing of jobs to India. This is a President who wants to talk about credibility? It was his economic report that cited 2.7 million new jobs would be created this year in the United States. In less than a week, before the ink was even dry, he needed to retract that, because the economy will not produce 2.7 million jobs. And this is an administration who wants to make credibility an issue?

On the issue of foreign policy, regardless of what your position is on the war, we went to war on the notion of dealing with weapons of mass destruction, and now we have a report questioning whether weapons of mass destruction were ever in Iraq, which was the legitimacy and the principle of going to war. Yet this is an administration that would like to make credibility of our nominee the issue in this campaign.

The President pledged in his recent budget \$3.5 million in new money for police and firefighters to help communities here in the United States, but his budget cuts \$1 billion for police and firefighters. But he would like to make credibility an issue.

His plan to halve the deficit by 2009 is an "accounting fiction" to Goldman Sachs. But he would like credibility to be the issue.